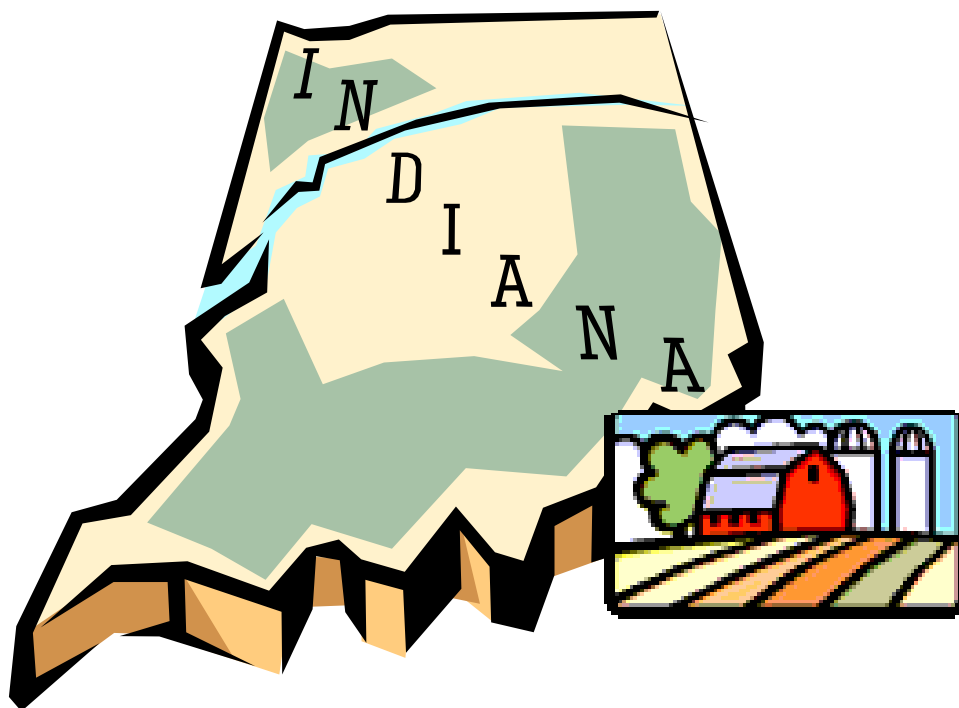


Indiana Farmland Protection Program



FY 2002 Plan

USDA-NRCS
Indianapolis, Indiana
April 12, 2002

Indiana Farmland Protection Program FY 2002 Plan

Table of Contents

Item	Page
Introduction	3
Important Farmlands (IF) Acreage in Indiana	3
Current Farmland Protection Activities in Indiana	5
Proposed Farmland Protection Activities in Indiana	6
National Ranking Criteria for FPP Funding to States	6
Indiana's Potential Cooperating Entities Expected to Participate in FY 2002	7
County Soil & Water Conservation District	7
State, County, or Local Unit of Government	8
Resource Conservation & Development Council	9
Land Trust Organization	10
Farmland Protection Program FY 2002 Eligibility Criteria	11
Farmland Protection Program FY 2002 Proposed Timeline	13
Indiana Farmland Protection Technical Advisory Committee Purpose & Responsibilities	14
Indiana Farmland Protection Technical Advisory Committee Structure	14
Indiana Farmland Protection Program FY 2002 Proposal Supplement	15
Indiana Farmland Protection Program FY 2002 Rating Guidelines	17
Indiana Ranking Criteria Guidelines	18
Indiana Farmland Protection Program FY 2002 Summary Evaluation Form	19
Appendix A: Important Farmland Definitions	20
Appendix B: National Resource Inventory Data	20

Indiana Farmland Protection Program FY 2002 Plan

Introduction

Urban-suburban development has been a major cause of loss of farmland in Indiana. According to the National Resource Inventory (NRI), during the fifteen-year period from 1982 to 1997, Indiana urban-suburban development increased by 434,600 acres, with most of the loss coming from farmland. About 68% of the state is "Important Farmland" soil, but no major efforts have been undertaken in the past to protect any of it. As shown earlier, we increased our urban-suburban land development on average about 3.7 square miles a month over the last 15 years, or an average of about 5 square miles per month during the last five years. With almost 70 % of the state being considered prime or important farmlands, the majority of the increase was obtained at the expense and the loss of prime or important farmlands. NRI data shows that Indiana is 4th highest in the nation in the percent of 1997 developed land that was prime farmland in 1992 and 7th in the U.S. in the average annual loss of prime farmland to development from 1992 - 1997.

The following table provides an indication of the acres of important farmland soils in each county in Indiana, and the percent of the total land area occupied by these soils.

Important Farmlands (IF)* Acreage in Indiana

County (or Parts of Counties)	Prime Farm-land Ac	Statewide Farm-land Ac	Total IF	Co Total Ac	% IF/Co Total
Adams Co.	212,721	900	213,621	217,555	98%
Allen Co.	388,955	6,703	395,658	422,407	94%
Bartholomew Co. Area	178,897	0	178,897	236,729	76%
Benton Co.	252,840	641	253,481	260,237	97%
Blackford & Jay Co.	237,836	865	238,701	351,808	68%
Boone Co.	262,917	0	262,917	270,957	97%
Brown & Part of Bartholomew Co.	28,575	0	28,575	228,090	13%
Carroll Co.	210,069	964	211,033	239,993	88%
Cass Co.	197,390	5,069	202,459	265,517	76%
Clark & Floyd Co.	115,290	0	115,290	336,500	34%
Clay Co.	173,811	0	173,811	230,554	75%
Clinton Co.	250,396	353	250,749	259,270	97%
Crawford Co.	34,483	0	34,483	197,523	17%
Daviess Co.	197,651	0	197,651	279,418	71%
Dearborn & Ohio Co.	64,537	0	64,537	252,685	26%
Decatur Co.	197,896	0	197,896	238,816	83%
Dekalb Co.	199,506	7,850	207,356	232,851	89%
Delaware Co.	215,597	1,394	216,991	253,459	86%
Dubois Co.	106,016	0	106,016	278,592	38%
Elkhart Co.	164,091	7,432	171,523	299,635	57%
Fayette & Union Co.	173,213	0	173,213	243,533	71%
Fountain Co.	217,992	0	217,992	254,777	86%
Franklin Co.	115,759	0	115,759	250,176	46%

Fulton Co.	174,720	11,850	186,570	237,709	78%
Gibson Co.	224,440	265	224,705	319,456	70%
Grant Co.	198,461	780	199,241	265,511	75%
Greene Co.	179,865	0	179,865	349,318	51%
Hamilton Co.	238,546	217	238,763	257,638	93%
Hancock Co.	187,260	0	187,260	196,570	95%
Harrison Co.	84,427	0	84,427	311,053	27%
Hendricks Co.	238,267	0	238,267	261,664	91%
Henry Co.	222,550	0	222,550	252,499	88%
Howard Co.	178,354	719	179,073	188,154	95%
Huntington Co.	216,553	413	216,966	248,096	87%
Jackson Co.	201,757	0	201,757	328,819	61%
Jasper Co.	205,065	54,840	259,905	359,321	72%
Jefferson Co.	126,295	0	126,295	232,160	54%
Jennings Co.	147,418	0	147,418	242,278	61%
Johnson Co.	177,801	0	177,801	206,215	86%
Knox Co.	253,995	1,230	255,225	335,488	76%
Kosciusko Co.	232,270	8,885	241,155	354,854	68%
Lagrange Co.	105,987	5,990	111,977	247,559	45%
Lake Co.	207,083	22,892	229,975	323,456	71%
Laporte Co.	244,581	22,555	267,136	386,688	69%
Lawrence Co.	73,013	0	73,013	289,395	25%
Madison Co.	268,334	780	269,114	289,811	93%
Marion Co.	170,171	0	170,171	257,818	66%
Marshall Co.	210,206	20,094	230,300	287,885	80%
Martin Co.	51,730	0	51,730	217,888	24%
Miami Co.	200,589	5,108	205,697	241,440	85%
Monroe Co.	58,227	0	58,227	263,206	22%
Montgomery Co.	282,277	472	282,749	323,520	87%
Morgan Co.	156,594	0	156,594	261,914	60%
Newton Co.	150,037	60,010	210,047	258,080	81%
Noble Co.	178,957	9,930	188,887	267,123	71%
Orange Co.	63,775	0	63,775	261,376	24%
Owen Co.	109,239	0	109,239	248,224	44%
Parke Co.	180,433	0	180,433	287,917	63%
Perry Co.	41,100	0	41,100	246,886	17%
Pike Co.	104,300	0	104,300	218,407	48%
Porter Co.	189,422	5,572	194,994	268,390	73%
Posey Co.	193,403	0	193,403	268,275	72%
Pulaski Co.	111,385	68,002	179,387	278,106	65%
Putnam Co.	205,992	0	205,992	309,100	67%
Randolph Co.	273,823	0	273,823	290,253	94%
Ripley & Part of Jennings Co.	194,121	0	194,121	294,591	66%
Rush Co.	242,955	0	242,955	261,267	93%
Scott Co.	76,648	0	76,648	123,341	62%
Shelby Co.	236,258	0	236,258	264,012	89%
Spencer Co.	155,465	0	155,465	256,295	61%
St. Joseph Co.	162,221	29,264	191,485	295,424	65%
Starke Co.	30,203	61,811	92,014	199,699	46%
Steuben Co.	103,942	10,180	114,122	206,438	55%
Sullivan Co.	198,620	0	198,620	290,343	68%
Switzerl& Co.	32,520	0	32,520	143,104	23%
Tippecanoe Co.	263,962	1,170	265,132	321,977	82%
Tipton Co.	165,480	256	165,736	166,682	99%
Vanderburgh Co.	112,428	0	112,428	151,123	74%

Vermillion Co.	130,223	220	130,443	166,413	78%
Vigo Co.	193,398	0	193,398	262,809	74%
Wabash Co.	193,744	2,360	196,104	269,504	73%
Warren Co.	192,427	720	193,147	234,413	82%
Warrick Co.	141,596	0	141,596	250,406	57%
Washington Co.	136,230	0	136,230	330,624	41%
Wayne Co.	185,035	0	185,035	258,682	72%
Wells Co.	225,456	150	225,606	236,928	95%
White Co.	255,366	19,892	275,258	325,536	85%
Whitley Co.	151,750	6,646	158,396	216,211	73%
TOTALS	15,295,188	465,444	15,760,632	23,166,424	68%

* Note this table indicates acres and percentages of important farmland soils in each county, **NOT CURRENT LAND USES**. Each county's total acreage data was established at the last update for soils in that county. The updates for soil acreage ranges over the last 44 years from 1958 to the present. Land use changes may have occurred in a specific county so soil acreage may have changed or been modified. See appendix A. for definitions of Important Farmlands (IF). Prime Farmland & Additional Farmland of Statewide Importance are totaled in this table). All these lands are referred to here as Important Farmlands. Unique Farmland & Farmland of Local Importance have not currently been identified in any county or area of the state.

The gross acreage of cropland converted to urban development is not necessarily the most troubling concern. A greater cause for concern is the quality and pattern of cropland being converted. Prime and important agricultural soils are being converted 3 to 4 times the rate of other less-productive land. In addition, the remaining farmland is placed under greater environmental, economic and social strain as agricultural and urbanizing interests compete.

Current Farmland Protection Activities in Indiana

The Farmland Protection Program has been established to help protect and slow the loss of farmland, but Indiana has not previously used this program to assist local entities in purchasing permanent conservation easements to protect farmland. However due to a proactive farmland protection programs of The Nature Conservancy and the Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D in Northeastern Indiana a total of 1,300 acres of farmland has voluntarily been placed under permanent easement as of April, 1, 2002. It is our hopes that we can initiate a more active statewide program during 2002.

County	Organization	Acres Protected	Total FPP Award	Local Share	Easement Value *
Elkhart	Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D	57 acres	\$0	\$40	\$363,000
Putnam	The Nature Conservancy	794 acres	\$0	\$794,000	\$794,000
Vigo	Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D	248 acres	\$0	\$0	\$397,000
Whitley	Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D	21 acres	\$0	\$0	est. \$21,0000
Madison	Redtail Conservancy	180 acres	\$0	\$0	\$180,000
	Totals:	1,300 acres	\$0	\$794,040	\$1,755,000

* Easement value represents the value of development rights of the parcel. Also note in most cases the local share was donated, so there was no value or little expense in obtaining the easement.

Historically, we do not have an average cost of conservation easements on rural farmland in Indiana. Since we have a high percentage of the remaining farmland as prime or important in the state, our average cost for conservation easements should be equal or slightly less than the average in the United States.

Proposed Farmland Protection Activities in Indiana

The Indiana Farmland Protection Technical Advisory Committee (IFPTAC) long term goal under the Indiana Land Resources Council (ILRC) is to establish a Statewide Farmland Protection Program which includes the USDA-NRCS Farmland Protection Program (FPP) as a component of the total program. Concern about the loss of farmland in the state was one of the main reasons the ILRC was established. Long term projects of the IFPTAC include development of an updated state wide LESA system, review of ranking criteria, development of funding sources (including state government funds), and development and distribution of outreach materials. The ILRC hopes to seek grants on its own and identify another organization in the state as the vehicle to accept donations for the Indiana Statewide Farmland Protection Program.

National Ranking Criteria for FPP Funding to States (Indiana's Request)

Total FPP funds Requested for FY 2002 (Oct 2001 to Sept. 2002)	\$
Acres of Prime and Important Farmland to be Protected	
Dollars expected to be available from government and NGO Farmland Protection Programs (excluding FPP funds).....	\$
Total acres to be protected in fiscal year 2002 (including FPP funds).....	
Total acres estimated to need protection in the State (excluding FPP funds).....	
Number, or acres, of Cultural Resource sites to be Protected	
Number of sites.....	
Acres (total estimated acreage enrolled under easements).....	
Unfunded application backlog of state, local tribal and NGO programs	
Estimated dollar value.....	
Estimated acres.....	
Average estimated FPP cost/acre	\$

Indiana Potential Cooperating Entities Expected to Participate in FY 2002

_____ (County Soil & Water Conservation District)

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Number of proposals anticipating to submit for F/Y2002.....	
Degree of development pressure	
Degree of leveraging guaranteed for each proposal (enter percent of Federal FPP funds requested; enter a, b, or c) (a) 50% to 35% (b) 34% to 20% (c) less than 20%	Proposal #1:
History of acquiring, managing, holding and enforcing conservation easements (number of years)	
Average annual farmland protection easement expenditures	\$
Average annual farmland protection easement donations received	\$
Staff years devoted to farmland protection	
Estimated acres to protect in F/Y2002 (including FPP funds)	Ac.
History of commitment to conservation planning and implementation. Choose one or more of the following: (a) none, (b) wildlife habitat, (c) erosion control, (d) nutrient management, (e) pest management, (f) invasive species, (g) water management, (h) air quality, (I) all of the above.	
Does the entity require implementation of the conservation plan within a specified time period? Enter Yes or No	
Unfunded backlog of conservation easements on Prime	Ac. \$
Statewide Important	Ac. \$

_____ (State, County or Local Unit of Government)

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Number of proposals anticipating to submit for F/Y2002.....	
Degree of development pressure	
Degree of leveraging guaranteed for each proposal (enter percent of Federal FPP funds requested; enter a, b, or c) (d) 50% to 35% (e) 34% to 20% (f) less than 20%	Proposal #1:
History of acquiring, managing, holding and enforcing conservation easements (number of years)	
Average annual farmland protection easement expenditures	\$
Average annual farmland protection easement donations received	\$
Staff years devoted to farmland protection	
Estimated acres to protect in F/Y2002 (including FPP funds)	Ac.
History of commitment to conservation planning and implementation. Choose one or more of the following: (a) none, (b) wildlife habitat, (c) erosion control, (d) nutrient management, (e) pest management, (f) invasive species, (g) water management, (h) air quality, (I) all of the above.	
Does the entity require implementation of the conservation plan within a specified time period? Enter Yes or No	
Unfunded backlog of conservation easements on Prime	Ac. \$
Statewide Important	Ac. \$

_____ (Resource Conservation & Development Council)

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Number of proposals anticipating to submit for F/Y2002.....	
Degree of development pressure	
Degree of leveraging guaranteed for each proposal (enter percent of Federal FPP funds requested; enter a, b, or c) (g) 50% to 35% (h) 34% to 20% (i) less than 20%	Proposal #1:
History of acquiring, managing, holding and enforcing conservation easements (number of years)	
Average annual farmland protection easement expenditures	\$
Average annual farmland protection easement donations received	\$
Staff years devoted to farmland protection	
Estimated acres to protect in F/Y2002 (including FPP funds)	Ac.
History of commitment to conservation planning and implementation. Choose one or more of the following: (a) none, (b) wildlife habitat, (c) erosion control, (d) nutrient management, (e) pest management, (f) invasive species, (g) water management, (h) air quality, (I) all of the above.	
Does the entity require implementation of the conservation plan within a specified time period? Enter Yes or No	
Unfunded backlog of conservation easements on Prime	Ac. \$
Statewide Important	Ac. \$

(Land Trust Organization)

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Number of proposals anticipating to submit for F/Y2002.....	
Degree of development pressure	
Degree of leveraging guaranteed for each proposal (enter percent of Federal FPP funds requested; enter a, b, or c) (j) 50% to 35% (k) 34% to 20% (l) less than 20%	Proposal #1:
History of acquiring, managing, holding and enforcing conservation easements (number of years)	
Average annual farmland protection easement expenditures	\$
Average annual farmland protection easement donations received	\$
Staff years devoted to farmland protection	
Estimated acres to protect in F/Y2002 (including FPP funds)	Ac.
History of commitment to conservation planning and implementation. Choose one or more of the following: (a) none, (b) wildlife habitat, (c) erosion control, (d) nutrient management, (e) pest management, (f) invasive species, (g) water management, (h) air quality, (I) all of the above.	
Does the entity require implementation of the conservation plan within a specified time period? Enter Yes or No	
Unfunded backlog of conservation easements on Prime	Ac. \$
Statewide Important	Ac. \$

Farmland Protection Program FY 2002 Eligibility Criteria

1. Entity must represent a local, state, or tribal unit of Government or is a non-governmental organization described in section 501 c (3), 509(a)(2) or 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
A. Organizations must demonstrate their ability, both legally and programmatically to acquire, manage and enforce easements. A higher priority will be placed on entities that have extensive experience in managing easements.
2. The primary purpose of the easement must be for the protection of important farmland soils in Indiana including prime and unique farmland, soils of statewide importance and soils of local importance according to the identification of such soils maintained by the NRCS, Indianapolis, IN Or, the parcel must be identified on the National or State Registry of Historic or Archaeological Sites.
3. The parcel must have an approved conservation plan prepared by the NRCS.
4. The parcel must be of sufficient size to allow for efficient management of the area; have an existing agricultural infrastructure, both on and off-farm, and have access to markets.
5. There must be a pending offer for the acquisition of the conservation easement, and at least ½ of the negotiated purchase price of the easement must be obligated for this purpose.
6. There must be an appraisal of the property completed by a land appraiser certified in the State of Indiana. (An estimated easement value, presented in writing from a certified land appraiser, will be accepted at the time the proposal is submitted. An official appraisal must be completed prior to the closing on the easement. Appraisals must conform to the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisition.
7. Duration of the easement must be for a minimum of 30 years. Higher priority will be given to perpetual easements.
8. Proposals demonstrating there is an urgent and immediate threat from development will be given higher priority.
9. Parcels that are adjacent to, or in close proximity to other conservation land that help create large tracts of protected area will be given higher priority.
10. The NRCS has a State-wide LESA providing Soil Potential Index values (SPI) for all soils recognized in the state. Proposals must include an SPI evaluation of the parcel. Higher average SPI values will be given higher priority.

11. Proposals must be hand delivered to the NRCS State Office, Indianapolis, IN by close of business (4:30pm) on _____, 2002, or be postmarked no later than _____, 2002. (fax transmittals will not be accepted.) Requesting 8 copies.

- The Indiana Farmland Protection Technical Advisory Committee may request additional information to be included in the proposal.

Farmland Protection Program FY 2002 Proposed Timeline

Activity	Dates
1. National Office notifies State Offices of the State FPP plan requirements	January 28, 2002
2. NRCS national office sends out State FPP Plan template.	February 8, 2002
1. NRCS National Office holds teleconferences with State NRCS FPP managers.	February 2002
4. States develop a State FPP plan. The State Conservationist convenes the State Technical Committee for the development of this plan.	March 4, 2002
5. Plans are submitted to NHQ for state allocation decisions.	April 12, 2002
6. NHQ awards state allocations based on quality of State FPP plans.	When Funds are Available
7. Request for Proposals is published.	When Funds are Available
2. States receive proposals from entities, determine parcel and participant eligibility, and rank parcels.	45 days after the RFP is published
9. States award funds to entities and enters into cooperative agreements.	60 days after the RFP is published

Indiana Farmland Protection Technical Advisory Committee Purpose & Responsibilities

The Indiana Farmland Protection Technical Advisory Committee (IFPTAC) is a subgroup of the NRCS State Technical Committee. The NRCS FPP Program Manager chairs the committee. National guidelines on the make-up and function of this committee are contained in 7CFR Part 610, Subpart C, Section 610.21. The Committee also functions as the Indiana Farmland Protection Technical Advisory Committee of the Indiana Land Resources Council.

The purpose of this committee is to provide recommendations, data and technical analysis pertaining to the administration of the FPP program and other local, state, and federal farmland protection programs which reflects the professional information and judgement of the committee. Such information is provided in a manner that will assist in determining matters of fact, technical merit, or scientific question. Recommendations are provided to the NRCS State Conservationist and the Indiana Land Resources Council. Although the Farmland Protection Advisory Committee has no implementation or enforcement authority, USDA shall give strong consideration to the committee's recommendations.

The specific responsibilities of the committee include, but are not limited to:

1. Establish ranking criteria and guidelines for FPP proposals
2. Review the technical merits of proposals
3. Rank proposals and recommend FPP and other program awards.
4. Provide advise on the development of the State FPP Program Plan
5. Keep the State Technical Advisory Committee informed
6. Keep the Indiana Land Resource Council informed
7. Provide technical advisory leadership in other local, state, and federal programs assisting with farmland protection
8. Assist in farmland protection program(s) outreach

Indiana Farmland Protection Technical Advisory Committee Structure

The Indiana FPP Technical Advisory Committee will at minimum have representation from:

- NRCS FPP Program Manager, who will Chair the committee
- 2 farmers
- Representative of Indiana Association of Conservation Districts
- Representative of IDNR, Soil Conservation Division
- Representative of Purdue Cooperative Extension
- Representative of Indiana Farm Bureau
- Representative of Commissioner of Agriculture/Indiana Land Resource Council
- Representative of Hoosier Environmental Council
- Representative of a Nature Conservancy
- Representative of Indiana land Protection Alliance
- Representative of Association of Indiana Counties
- Representative of Indiana Planning Association
- Representative of Indiana Builders Association

Indiana Farmland Protection Program FY 2002 Proposal Supplement

This supplement is to be included with FPP proposals submitted to the NRCS. The answers to these questions will be used by the State Farmland Protection Technical Advisory Committee for the evaluation and prioritizing of FPP proposals submitted to the NRCS for FY 2002. Please insure all items asked for are either included in the RFP proposal, or are attached to this form and included as a supplement to the RFP proposal.

If the information asked for is included in the FPP proposal, please provide page and paragraph number. If the information is not part of the FPP proposal, please provide a short answer in the column, or attach appropriate documentation to this form.

The committee is requesting eight (8) copies of the proposal be submitted to the NRCS. Proposals must be received, or postmarked no later than *****date*****.

Date _____

Cooperating Entity: _____

Name(s) of Landowners: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Project No.** _____

Evaluation Information	Is the information requested:	
	included in the FPP Proposal	attached to this form
Size of the parcel(s) in acres. (25 acre minimum)	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	
Location of the parcel(s). Please include map, topo map and soils map with the parcel(s) identified.	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	
Name of eligible State or local entity, contact person, address and phone number.	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	
Total appraised fair market value, or market analysis of the conservation easement.	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	

Evaluation Information	Is the information requested:	
	included in the FPP Proposal	attached to this form
Name, address, phone # of the Certified Land Appraiser.	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	
Negotiated purchase price (NPP) of the conservation easement.	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	
Is the local entity willing to provide more than ½ of the NPP? If so, what percentage?	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	
Copy of the NRCS conservation plan map and record of decisions.	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	
Owner's intended use of the parcel(s) if the conservation easement is purchased. Include a business plan explaining any investment strategy, time frames, etc.	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	
Agricultural history of the parcel(s) including real-estate transactions of landowner's property over past 10 -20 years.	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	
Provide map of the area showing any Federal, State, local or private conservation efforts on land in the vicinity.	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	
SPI of all soil map units within the parcel(s) and weighted SPI for the tract.	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	
Acres of prime farmland, soils of statewide importance, soils of local importance, and unique farmland soils.	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	
Historical, cultural, scenic or environmental qualities of the parcel(s).	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	
Documentation of parcel listed on National or State Register of Historic Place or Archaeological Site.	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	
Likelihood of conversion to nonagricultural use, either due to urban land-use pressure or due to economic viability, or both.	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	
Social and economic benefit to the region. Self-standing and/or connected with other operations in the area.	Page #: _____ Paragraph: _____	

Indiana Farmland Protection Program FY 2002 Rating Guidelines

Date _____

Parcel Name: _____ Parcel Number _____

Cooperating Entity: _____

Circle one: NGO Unit of Gov.

Name(s) of Landowners: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Other _____

Required Eligibility Requirements:

(All questions must be answered "yes")

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Is the land privately owned? | Yes | No |
| 2. Does the cooperating agency have at least one half of the negotiated purchase price available to purchase easements rights? | Yes | No |
| 3. Does the parcel contain important farmland, <i>or</i> is it listed on the National or State Registry of Historic Places or Archaeological Sites? | Yes | No |
| 4. Does the entire parcel have an NRCS Conservation Plan? | Yes | No |
| 5. Can the cooperating entity demonstrate a capability to acquire, manage and enforce the easement? | Yes | No |
| 6. Is the parcel large enough to sustain agricultural production? | Yes | No |
| 7. Is the parcel free of restrictions that limit the conversion to nonagricultural uses? | Yes | No |

Indiana Ranking Criteria Guidelines

Parcel Name: _____ Parcel Number _____

1. Acres of Prime farmland, soils of statewide importance, unique, and local farmland (0 to 20 points maximum, with 1 point given for every 10 acres, with partial unit score rounded to next level.) _____points
2. Weighted average Soil Productivity Index (SPI) of the soil map units (0 to 20 points, with 1 point awarded for every 5 SPI units with partial unit score rounded to next level.) SPI information available from NRCS. _____points
3. Any other Federal, state, local (municipality) or private conservation efforts/purchases of land already protected in the vicinity (0 to 10 points, with 10 points if property is adjacent, 5-9 points if property is within 1 mile, and 0-4 points if greater than 1 mile.) _____points
4. Likelihood of conversion to nonagricultural use due to urban development, land use pressure (0 to 10 points, with higher points given if likely to be converted, unless the intended conversion is compatible with local land use policies) _____points
5. Has 50% of the negotiated purchase price been obligated by the cooperating entity (Yes/10 points; Not Obligated /0 points) _____points
6. Size of tract of land (25 acre minimum) (0 to 5 points, 1 point/25-39 acres, 2 points/40-79 acres, 3 points/80-159 acres, 4 points/160-319, and 5 points 320 or more acres) _____points
7. Current parcel and adjoining land use are compatible with agriculture (0 to 5 points) _____points
8. This parcel is compatible with the existing county or municipality comprehensive plan (0-5 points) _____points
9. Demonstrated active support from the community for this parcel to stay in agriculture (0 to 5 points) _____points
10. Cultural, social and/or economic benefit to the region if the land is kept in agriculture (0 to 5 points) _____points
11. Qualitative evaluation (0 to 5 points/ Points can be provided i.e. for historical, scenic and/or environmental qualities of the parcel. If the cooperating entity is providing more than ½ of the negotiated purchase price, additional recognition is appropriate, and points can be given for the quality of the business plan) _____points
12. Bonus points if the parcel is listed on the National or State Registry of Historic Places or Archaeological sites (Yes/5 points No/0 points) _____points

Total score out of 105*: _____points

* Maximum point score is 100.

An additional 5 points is awarded if the parcel is also identified as an historical or archaeological site.

Indiana Farmland Protection Program FY 2002 Summary Evaluation Form

Mail to: Dwayne Howard
NRCS, Indiana State Office
6013 Lakeside Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46278-2933

Reviewed by Indiana Farmland Protection Technical Advisor Member: _____

Parcel Number*	Proposed Parcel Name	Total Point Score	Final Ranking
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

* Listed in the order in which they were received

Appendix A: Important Farmland Definitions

There are four different classes or designations of important farmlands

Prime farmland- Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses (the land could be cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forest land, or other land, but not urban built-up land or water). It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to acceptable farming methods. The specific acceptable ranges of these specific conditions are defined at the national level and details are available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Unique farmland- Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high value food and fiber crops. It has the special combination of soil characteristics, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality and/or high yields of a specific crop when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. No such designated soils have been identified and approved in Indiana in this category at this time

Additional farmland of statewide importance- Statewide farmland is land in addition to prime and unique farmlands that is of statewide importance for the production of food, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. The appropriate state agency or agencies determine criteria for defining and delineating this land. Generally, additional farmland of statewide importance includes those that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some may produce as high a yield as prime farmlands if conditions are favorable. Soils in Indiana have been identified, and a list is available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Generally, in Indiana, this includes muck & poorly drained sands.

Additional farmland of local importance- In some local areas there is concern for certain additional farmlands for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops, even though these lands are not identified as having national or statewide importance. Where appropriate, these lands are to be identified by a local agency or agencies concerned. In places, additional farmlands of local importance may include tracts of land that have been designated for agriculture by local ordinance. No such designated soils have been identified and approved in Indiana in this category at this time



Appendix B: National Resource Inventory Data National Resources Inventory NRI Data for Indiana Summary Report

Revised December 2000

Table 1 - Surface area of nonfederal, federal land, and water areas by year

Year	Federal land	Water areas	Nonfederal land			Total surface area
			Developed	Rural	Total	
	1,000 acres					
1982	473.3	347.0	1,834.8	20,503.3	22,338.1	23,158.4
1987	472.3	355.1	1,956.5	20,374.5	22,331.0	23,158.4
1992	473.5	358.6	2,065.1	20,261.2	22,326.3	23,158.4
1997	472.4	356.9	2,260.4	20,068.7	22,329.1	23,158.4

Table 2 - Land cover/use of Indiana nonfederal rural land by year

Year	Cropland	CRP land	Pastureland	Forest land	Other rural land	Total rural land
1,000 acres						
1982	13,780.2	0.0	2,199.9	3,779.3	743.9	20,503.3
1987	13,839.9	143.2	1,914.5	3,793.8	683.1	20,374.5
1992	13,511.7	413.7	1,837.4	3,802.5	695.9	20,261.2
1997	13,407.1	377.6	1,830.0	3,780.5	673.5	20,068.7

Table 3 - Prime farmland in Indiana, by land cover/use by year (does not include statewide important farmland)

Year	Cropland	CRP land	Pastureland	Forest land	Other rural land	Total rural land
1,000 acres						
1982	11,176.0	0.0	936.6	815.7	314.4	13,242.7
1987	11,223.6	64.1	776.4	807.5	289.3	13,160.9
1992	11,046.4	205.4	726.2	807.9	290.1	13,076.0
1997	10,915.7	199.9	742.3	809.2	273.2	12,940.3